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Central Florida Future

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The Student Newspaper Serving UCF Since 1968

www.UCFnews.com • Monday, April 5, 2004

'FRO DOWN

A professor's racial accusation has some UCF fans' hair in a bunch.

— SEE SPORTS, B1

CLEAN SWEEP

Dee Brown expodes for two home runs and eight RBIs as UCF baseball sweeps Jacksonville.

— SEE SPORTS, B1

In cold competition, UCF snowboarder gives Colorado a Rocky Mountain low

RACHEL BECK
Staff Writer

Students from Florida — home of sun, sand and surf — aren't supposed to shine in athletic competitions held on snow-covered slopes. Certainly they aren't expected to travel to Colorado and show up the locals at their own mountain sports.

But that's exactly what happened this past weekend when a UCF student beat his Colorado counterpart in a snowboarding race.

Adding insult to the upset, the UCF boarder had never seen snow before.

No one expected UCF to win, and indeed it did not. UCF placed eighth in the snowboard portion of a multiple-event competition called the Energy Challenge, in which engineering students compete using objects consisting

of at least 80 percent recycled material. The required material this year was paper fiber.

Still, that eighth place was three places ahead of the contestant from the University of Colorado at Denver, which is located 20 miles from the competition course in Winter Park, Colo.

(The snowboarding contest was won by a student from Pasadena City College — that's Pasadena, Calif. — which suggests that the Colorado competitor must be really bad.)

Following its snowboard showing, the UCF team finished 11th in the overall competition, which attracted teams from 13 universities.

"It's been able to open up some eyes to what we can do with our waste stuff," UCF team leader Tina Simpson, an electrical engineering technology major, said before departing for the

contest.

The others who made the trip included Bryan Dawkins, an electrical engineering technology major, and Felix Ruiz, a space systems technology major, plus their faculty adviser Richard Denning.

Ruiz was the snowboard competitor. Not only had he never seen snow, but he also had never ridden a snowboard. He spent Friday afternoon taking professional snowboarding lessons. Teams proved their paper snowboards' durability by speeding downhill at the Winter Park Resort around flags and clearing a six-foot rail slide.

The three UCF students spent the past two semesters creating their snowboard of 100 percent recycled butcher paper.

Teams are judged on presentation, a video and paperwork submitted about



Felix Ruiz of UCF makes his way down the race course in Winter Park, Colo. Saturday.

their board, as well as the race. Judges were also sent prototype boards from the teams to break apart and test.

The snowboard was made with chemically treated, environmentally safe paper left over from last year's competition, when the team made a hang glider. The team created a mold of a snowboard, then layered the paper into the mold and then covered it in fiberglass.

The competition is meant to promote environmentally safe engineering, and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Institute of Paper Science and Technology at Georgia Tech and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

COURTESY JACK DEMPSEY / ENERGY CHALLENGE

Broadcast honor cites UCF effort

ALEX BABCOCK
Managing Editor

WESH-TV claimed television's coveted George Foster Peabody Award on Wednesday, thanks to some help from 15 UCF engineering students.

The group of undergraduate and graduate students inspected new homes built in the Orlando area during most of 2003; a series of reports on the sub-standard construction the students found aired on Channel 2 during November. The *Orlando Sentinel* also ran reports of the inspections.

"It's the biggest project we've ever intentionally undertaken," Bill Baumann, general manager of WESH, said. He added, "I think it's some of the best work we've done here in the past 10 years. We're very proud of it."

He added that UCF was critical to the success of the project. "Having the Engineering Department involved gave that series of reports a lot of credibility," Baumann said.

First proposed to WESH by the *Sentinel* in late 2002, the project involved having inspectors review the quality of homes recently built in Orlando by a variety of home builders, most of which are regional or national-level builders. Four hundred and six homes were inspected for flaws between April 2003 and October 2003, though the students began preparing for the project in January. UCF was paid \$30,000 for their help with the project.

All of the students involved in the project had to become certified home inspectors first, guided through the process by an

independent inspection expert. The students were supervised by Associate Professors Ahmad Elshennawy and Michael Mullens.

"It was a really good example of teamwork," Elshennawy, an associate professor of industrial engineering, said. Research collected by the students, who sometimes drove more than an hour away to visit homes, was compiled into a *Sentinel* database to chart the frequency of problems such as cracking in foundations, leaky windows and other flaws.

An expert always supervised the students, and their work was reviewed. Elshennawy even went on some inspections himself.

What they found after months of work was a failed system and hundreds of improperly or sloppily constructed homes. Only 1 percent, or four homes, were problem-free.

Over the course of 21 consecutive weeknights, WESH aired reports of the findings, ranging from overuse of Mexican immigrant laborers to cheap building materials and hasty construction techniques that made mistakes more likely.

The same problems cropped up in homes built by big and small companies. Among those homes inspected were ones built by Cambridge Homes, Centex Homes, David Weekley Homes, Engle Homes, DR Horton, Landstar Homes and Lennar Corp.

Prominent builders were responsible for 46 percent, or 185, of the homes in the inspection database the students helped to

PLEASE SEE STUDENTS ON A4



Roxie Hanna, owner of Jerry's General Store, faces 43 felony counts for selling pornography without a proper license and for tax evasion. She says she is innocent on all counts.

'Witch hunt' finds local store

Jerry's battles MBI on porn charges

JESSICA LACOMBE
Staff Writer

Roxie Hanna looks thinner than she was one year ago today. She appears very tired. Hanna has reason to be, because for over a year she has been fighting a David-versus-Goliath battle with the Orange County Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation.

In November 2002, Hanna, 33, was arrested after she sold pornography to undercover MBI officials. The sales were made from the store she owns, Jerry's General Store, located

on East Colonial Drive just two miles from UCF.

The same day, just two days before Thanksgiving, Hanna's mother, Diana Cooper, and grandmother, Eileen Hart, known to all employees as "Grammie," were also arrested. Cooper is 55, Hart is 75. Both Cooper and Hart are employees at Jerry's.

The charges against the women were a result of the RICO Act, known in full form as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. According to the MBI online executive summary, Hanna was "distributing an extremely hardcore and vile type of obscene pornography and obscenity and racketeering charges were brought for

operating an on-going business enterprise that distributed obscene materials."

Hanna, Cooper and Hart were each held on \$50,000 bond and were released in the early hours of Thanksgiving morning.

Over a year and a handful of court dates later, Hanna has also been handed numerous charges.

"I'm up to 43 felony counts, and I believe one misdemeanor," she said bluntly.

Along with her attorney Richard Wilson, she is fighting over 200 years in jail and what MBI critics have called a witch hunt. Hanna said her problems in Orange County can be traced directly to federal policy.

"I have to say that every time a Republican is in the White House, local government tries to push policy on us," Hanna said. "They're pushing their Christianity on you. We are having our own religious war right here."

The premise of all the legal battles is the store that Hanna inherited from her father, Jerry Cooper. Jerry's General Store is a two-room store, smaller than an average two-bedroom apartment, with the feel of a "mom-and-pop" shop. But you won't find milk and eggs there.

What you will find is a variety of adult media, including VHS tapes, DVDs, magazines and a variety of sex toys and

PLEASE SEE PORN ON A4

SGA Senate to approve \$8.5 million Activity and Service Fee budget

Special session will be held on Thursday

HEIDI A. DE VRIES
Senior Staff Writer

The fate of \$8.5 million generated by student fees will be decided Thursday in a special session of the SGA Senate.

For every credit hour a UCF student takes, he pays \$8.09 in Activity and Service fees in addition to tuition, health and athletic

fees, adding up to well over \$8 million.

For 30 minutes on Thursday, senators will give the opportunity for students to speak for up to three minutes each, which is the last chance for any students concerned about the way money will be spent in the upcoming school year to speak their minds.

Throughout the Activity and Service Fee (ASF) budget meetings, clubs and organizations have been able to speak with the committee and propose a budget for the year based upon what

activities they have planned. Because of budget limitations, however, the ASF budget couldn't fund every request, leaving some clubs with less money than they had hoped for. The committee is now taking the budget it's worked out to the Senate, which will approve that budget Thursday.

Some groups were given no money in this year's ASF budget, and senators will have the opportunity to debate why during the special session in which they will, ultimately, approve the

budget — whether in its current form or with additions and changes they may make during the course of the meeting.

Sen. A.J. Ansari is one senator that may be questioning the distribution of funds. "There's a lot of engineering clubs that got zero funding. We should all think about whether the clubs in our colleges are well represented before we start handing out huge chunks of money to extracurricular activities," he told other senators, in reference to the Greek Council getting more

money than allotted last year. "I'm Greek, and I don't agree with this," Ansari added.

ASF Committee Chairman Nick Merolle said the majority of clubs that received no funding in this year's budget did so because they weren't eligible — meaning they didn't turn in forms, weren't properly registered with the Office of Student Involvement or had other technical problems.

In the Greek Council

PLEASE SEE EXECUTIVE ON A6

Classification rankings by dollar amount allocated

Classification	Amount
Sports	\$155,303
Pre-professional	\$106,577
Academic	\$92,486
Special interest	\$68,529
Ethnic minority / international	\$48,313
Governance council	\$44,097
Religious	\$31,064
Political / social activism	\$24,105
Honorary	\$20,145
Military	\$13,580
Service	\$6,120

SOURCE: SGA FISCAL UNIT

Around Campus

'Roe' abortion speech canceled

A Friday speech by Norma McCorvey, the famous "Roe" in the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* case legalizing abortion, has been canceled because of scheduling conflicts.

Local bands at Student Union

CAB Cultural and Fine Arts will present "Four Car Garage," a showcase of local bands, from noon to 2 p.m. today in front of the Student Union. Three bands — Off White Noise, Day of Appearance and The Addictions — will perform.

Founders' Day celebration

Faculty members and students will be honored during the Founders' Day Honors Convocation at the Student Union Pegasus Ballroom at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The event recognizes faculty members for excellence in teaching, advising, research, professional service and librarianship, as well as those who are retiring.

Seven students will be recognized for exceptional ability in a particular field of study, and three Honors in the Major students will be honored for outstanding theses. Additionally, recently-graduated seniors who have completed honors theses and seniors who are in the top 1 percent academically in each college will be recognized.

Conference on Middle East

In cooperation with UCF's Political Science Department, the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA) will hold its 22nd annual conference at the Student Union Thursday through Saturday. The conference theme is, "The Making of a New Middle East: Iran, the Region and the World."

While UCF students can attend the conference for free, registration is \$25 for students from other schools. For scholars, the registration fee is \$45. The combined conference registration and annual membership fee for scholars, which includes two issues of the center's journal, is \$85.

Call Houman Sadri, of the Political Science Department, at 407-823-6023 or e-mail at sadri@mail.ucf.edu for more information.

The Passion comes to the Arena

The UCF chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ will sponsor a free screening of director Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* at 8 p.m. Friday in the UCF Arena.

Trial Team tryouts

UCF's award-winning Trial Team will host tryouts at 5 p.m. Friday in Health and Public Affairs Room 126. Participants practice about 5-10 hours a week starting in fall for regional and national competitions once they get their mock case. Call Olu Aduloju at 407-733-1237 for more information.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an e-mail to editor@ucfnews.com. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

Anti-Patriot Act push heads north

Activist hopes UF's ACLU will pick up where UCF did not

HEIDI A. DE VRIES
Senior Staff Writer

UCF student senator Rachel Olander is taking another stand against provisions of the Patriot Act — this time at the University of Florida.

When the American Civil Liberties Union at UF decided to draft their own resolution against certain provisions of the U.S. Patriot Act, they invited Olander to come up for a day and speak to students, faculty and student senators about the Act and "the provisions we think are unconstitutional," said Tiffany Velez, president of the UF ACLU.

"I do hope we have a better chance than UCF," Velez said. She refers to Olander's failed attempt to pass a similar resolution earlier in the semester. The resolution, which was dragged out over the course of a month with a filibuster and other

attempts to stall the legislation, was voted down 17-20 at the Feb. 23 senate meeting.

On Wednesday, Olander will speak for 45 minutes and take questions for 15 minutes as the Gators find out why the resolution against provisions of the Patriot Act is even coming to their senate. So far, 12 universities have passed similar resolutions against the Act, which is a series of measures that passed incredibly quickly through the U.S. Senate in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 disaster.

"We're hoping to get students talking about it," Olander said. She plans to respond largely to arguments that were brought up by those opposed to the resolution during its passage through the UCF senate, as well as a portion of the Department of Defense Web site.

"When it comes to national security, [the United States] has a trend of responding with fear," she says. "Just like with the Japanese camps during World War II."

Drafted to fight terrorism and give the government unprecedented authority to catch such signs before a tragedy can result,

progressive groups have said that certain provisions of the Act are unconstitutional and violate law-abiding citizens' privacy. Four states — Vermont, Alaska, Hawaii, and Maine — as well as 270 communities including New York City and Washington, D.C., have passed similar resolutions.

For instance, Olander says that Section 806, which deals with how organizations are tied to terrorist organizations, was found to be unconstitutional by a circuit court, but is still working its way through the court system.

Universities in particular should take a stand against the Act, Velez said. It allows the federal government to look up library records without the patron's knowledge and to seize international students' data. Should the resolution that is now at the UF SGA Judicial Council pass with the UF senate, it would ask the library to put up a sign announcing the possibility of borrowing records being seized, as well as alerting international students if their educational records were obtained by the federal government.

Currently, the University of Florida's library computers have

a message that pops up every time someone logs onto the Internet that warns students that the information they access is not protected, due to provisions of the Patriot Act. However, Velez said that she didn't even notice the message for a while. "When you want to get on the Internet, you just click through all those boxes," she explained. "Most students are in too much of a hurry to worry about what those boxes say ... so I'd like to see a sign which could alert students whenever they're walking in or out of the library."

The resolution will be heard first by UF's Judicial Council which will, "make sure the resolution is written properly, and that we know what we're talking to," Velez said.

Velez expects that the resolution to pass in the Judicial Council. Mike Provenale, who is a co-sponsor of the resolution, is also the chairman of the Judicial Council. If the resolution passes through the Judicial Council, it will come to UF's senate. Velez has a positive outlook: "Things do get done, [the senate] is there to help us ... I don't think it's a conservative or liberal matter."

An egg in the hand is worth two in the basket



Constance Katsafanas holds back local children as they wait for an Easter egg hunt to begin on Saturday at Lake Claire. Adult-sized Easter bunnies, a moon bounce, carnival games, snow cones and cotton candy added to the annual event sponsored by the Greek council. The "Greek"ster Egg Hunt attracted more than 400 members of the Orlando community.

In campus speech, sexpert gives an earful of advice

NICOL JENKINS
Contributing Writer

Orgasms, the G-Spot and premature ejaculation are all topics that have crossed the minds of college students. Dr. Ruth Westheimer used her sexpert advice to answer lingering questions for UCF students on Friday, April 2. Hillel@UCF, the Jewish campus organization, sponsored this event, concluding Israel Culture Week.

Dr. Ruth has been giving advice on sex and relationships for more than 20 years. She not only has a radio program and a television show, but has also authored more than 27 books. Her most recent book is *Sex for Dummies*. "Whoev-

er buys this book will have good sex for the rest of their life," she joked.

The doctor described herself as an old-fashioned mother and grandmother who talks about sex from morning to night. She said she first wanted to start her lecture by burying some myths about sex.

When it comes to sex, does size really matter? "The size of the penis has nothing to do with sexual satisfaction, unless it's miniscule," Dr. Ruth said. She also focused on the myths about sex and pregnancy. "If you have sex standing up, you still can get pregnant," Dr. Ruth said. She is also a big advocate of safe sex and using contraceptives, but the

PLEASE SEE SEX ON A4

Future wins regional editorial and national business awards

The *Future* recently won the title of Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper for the second year in a row in a four-state region as judged by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Other honors bestowed by the society:

- Second place, sports photography, to Brett Hart for his photo package of the last football game in the season against Miami of Ohio.

- Third place, general news reporting, to Patricia Xavier for her story on U.S. soldiers in Iraq who were critical of President George Bush's decision to keep troops there after he declared major combat finished.

- Third place, sports writing, to Chris Bernhardt for his coverage of former football Coach Mike Kruczek's decision to stay at UCF amidst higher

offers from other universities. Bernhardt's report was published at the end of the 2002 football season, before Kruczek's poor performance in 2003 caused him to be fired.

The Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Awards recognizing the best in student journalism judged the work of the *Future* against publications in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina. First-place regional winners will advance to the national contest in September.

The *Future* also was recognized with three awards March 27 at the national convention of the College Newspaper Business Advertising Managers, including one that recognized the *Future* for the best Classifieds section among all college papers.

Week in Science

NASEEM SOWTI
Senior Staff Writer

Satellite to test Einstein's predictions

A satellite designed to test two fundamental predictions made about the universe by Albert Einstein is ready for launch, 45 years after it was first proposed, according to NASA and Stanford University scientists. Gravity Probe B, which has overcome a half-dozen attempts at cancellation since 1959, is scheduled to lift off on April 17 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. At the heart of the spacecraft are four pingpong-ball-sized quartz spheres, the most perfect spheres ever made. The balls are chilled to near absolute zero in the vacuum of the largest thermos ever flown to space. Once in space and set spinning, the orientation of the balls should change, unless Einstein was wrong. He proposed in 1916 that space and time form a structure that can be curved by the presence of a body like the Earth. If theory holds, the mass and rotation of the Earth, 397 miles below the probe, should throw alignment of the spinning balls off kilter in subtle but measurable ways.

Evolutionary secrets in fossil arm

A 365-million-year-old arm bone fossil found in Pennsylvania came from one of the first creatures able to do push-ups, an evolutionary step that was necessary for animals to move from sea to dry land, according to scientists. The four-legged creature had a humerus, or upper arm bone, which is far different from the flipper bones of fish. This bone gave the four-legged creature the ability to raise its upper body like an athlete doing push-ups. The animal's upper arm bone shows evolution was already preparing vertebrates for their grand invasion of the world beyond the beach. The animal has not been named, but scientists believe it lived in a river delta, where water draining from mountains joined the inland sea.

Furthest known object in our solar system discovered

A frozen world found more than eight million miles from Earth is believed to be the farthest known object within our solar system, said a team of astronomers at California Institute of Technology. The "planetoid," called Sedna, is made of rock and ice and is between 800 and 1,100 miles in diameter. Sedna, named for the Inuit goddess who created sea creatures of the arctic, is the largest object found orbiting the sun. It is so far out that from its distance, the sun could be completely blocked out with the head of a pin.

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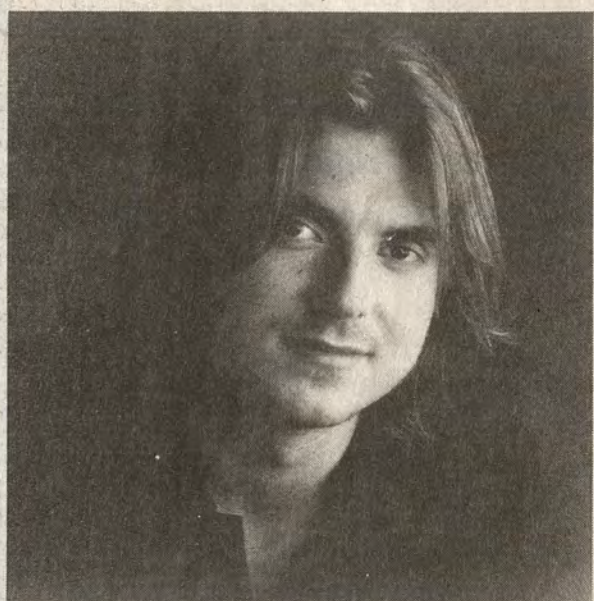
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- Seen as 'Terry' on "Reno 911"



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Porn only half of store's items

FROM A1

accessories. But that doesn't mean Jerry's is one step away from Fairvilla or Premier Adult Factory Outlet, the two major adult entertainment stores in the Orlando area, according to a former employee who did not want to be identified for legal reasons.

"The atmosphere is really not what is associated with the pornography industry," she said. "Aside from the non-adult section, we have a very low-key, very friendly clientele, including couples and bachelorette parties."

While Fairvilla and Premier Adult have not felt pressure from the MBI, pint-sized Jerry's has.

"The difference is that we have an adult license," Leo Hanna, an employee at Premier Adult Factory Outlet, said. "We have it displayed on our wall. As far as I know, Jerry's does not."

Leo Hanna would be correct, as Jerry's General Store does not have an adult bookstore license. Adult bookstore licenses, as a rule, cost more than regular vending licenses and put employees under heightened scrutiny. Until recently, Jerry's has simply been able to slink around that fact.

Roxie Hanna placed blame on Orange County law books.

"The law says that I can have a regular [vending] license and sell adult media, as long as a substantial portion of what I sell is not adult," Hanna said. "But there is no definition of what 'substantial' is. It's never been defined by local government. If you look it up in the dictionary, it's 50 percent, which I am adhering to."

The crux of Hanna's argument is that while Jerry's General Store sells and displays a large selection of adult media, it is a separate section of the store. The other half of the store contains a Blockbuster-style video rental, coffee table magazines and second-hand books.

Poor wording does not excuse a heap of legal battles, which Hanna said won't be resolved for another two years.

"I think that the store stands for freedom of speech and they should have every right to sell porn," Robert Reider, a UCF student, said. "Our local government has persecuted other liberal-minded organizations. I like porn and I've rented [it] ... I don't think the government should be trying to put them out of business."

Hanna maintained that she will fight all charges against her.

Since her initial arrest, Hanna kept Jerry's General Store running. Last June, the MBI met up with Jerry's again, and state officials charged Hanna with sales tax evasion.

According to Hanna, the Department of Revenue accused her of not reporting over \$90,000 in sales tax.

"Now if that's based on sales tax revenue, that means that I would have had to personally steal \$1.6 million in three years," Hanna said. "That's ridiculous."

Hanna smiled and said she's going to keep kicking despite additional charges. She added that it didn't hurt that CBS' 60 Minutes pursued her story and attended one of her four previous court dates.

Hanna dismissed the claims of Orange County as absurd, responding to it with:

"This obscenity stuff — I'll see you in court."

The MBI is a multi-governmental police and law enforcement agency. It operates in Orange and Osceola Counties.

The MBI did not respond to requests for an interview.

Charges against the 75-year-old Hart were dropped by the MBI on June 4, in exchange for evidence she provided against Hanna and Cooper regarding tax evasion.

A Marvel-ous time



Superheroes greeted participants in Universal Knights last Friday at Universal Studios Islands of Adventure. Not all 12,000 tickets available to students were picked up, and not everyone who picked up a ticket showed up at the event. Unlike last year, no one had to pay to get in.

Sex dominates audience queries

FROM A2

one question that she will never answer is when is the right time to become sexually active. "It is your own choice, but one important thing to remember is to never engage in sexual activity under the experience of pressure or alcohol," Dr. Ruth said.

She also enlightened students about abortion, homosexuality and STDs. According to Dr. Ruth, abortion should remain legal as long as it is not used as a contraceptive method. With the topic of homosexuality, Dr. Ruth believes it is important to treat everyone with the same respect; respect is not debatable. There is a moral obligation to tell your sexual partner if you have a STD. Regarding all these issues, it is important to make your own decision while still being responsible to your partner.

She does believe in love at first sight, but says afterward, the relationship still has to develop. She fell in love with her husband while skiing. With the question of where to meet Mr. or Mrs. Right, Dr. Ruth thinks you could meet him or her anywhere — in the classroom, the local bar or the Internet, as long as you meet in a public place. Dr. Ruth is against the new wave of reality dating shows. "These shows are fun to watch, but people can get hurt by the power of television," Dr. Ruth said. She advises not to get caught up in Hollywood — it can be unrealistic because sex sells.

Students also got their chances to have Dr. Ruth answer their questions. One student asked about Dr. Ruth's feelings on Viagra. She said it's a fantastic pharmaceutical breakthrough, but part of an educated process. Another student inquired on multiple orgasms. According to Dr. Ruth, they don't exist; you must be in tune with your partner to know what they need.

Another student asked about the new wave of tantra yoga, allowing Dr. Ruth to voice her belief that it will not make a man last longer in bed.

Sophomore Matt Bronx Heitner enjoyed what the doctor had to say. "There needs to be more people out there like her who can educate students about sex in an entertaining way," Heitner, 20, said.

Tamar Schapira, coordinator for Hillel@UCF, thought Dr. Ruth was informative. "Students felt free to ask any questions and she answered them very well," Schapira said.



Dr. Ruth fields questions from UCF students last Friday in the Business Administration building. Her lecture was the last event in Israel Culture week, sponsored by Hillel@UCF.

Students provided 'heart and soul' of story

FROM A1

compile.

"In the old days they weren't building them quite as fast," Baumann said, commenting on the perception that many of the flaws came from homes being built too quickly to meet increasing demand. "Even at UCF, you drive by a house and it's being built, a month later it's done, and there's a car in the driveway," he said.

The series of reports earned WESH its first Peabody, an award meant to credit the best examples of public service in television and radio. Though it ultimately ran for 21 nights, the series was originally planned to include just six or seven reports, Baumann said. When the station began airing the reports in early November 2003, viewer response was so impressive that the series kept going. "You know when you've struck a nerve when the phones light up and you get hundreds of e-mails," Baumann said. "We just kept getting tons of phone calls and e-mails. These stories just kept popping up in front of us and we kept doing them."

He said it's been a continuing goal of the station to include more investigative reporting in the station's broadcasts — the kind of content that fills about half of an average newscast. All local news stations have to do news that happens during that day, he said, because it's news by definition. After that, though, it's the stories the station decides to run that fill up the broadcast.

"We decide to do education reporting. We decide to do medical reporting with Dr. Rusty," Baumann said. "The best investigative reporting is the kind that affects your viewers. What better subject than the quality of your housing?"

He added, "I really do believe the heart and soul of this story was the statistical analysis that the Engineering Department at UCF was able to come up with."

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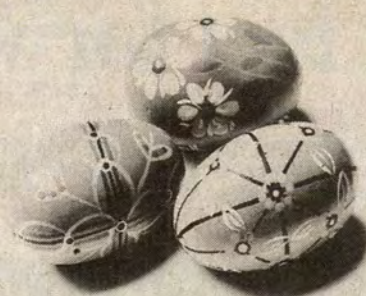


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What people weren't looking for on the first Easter

Instead, people were searching for the body of Jesus of Nazareth. Was he an actual person? Did he rise from the dead? Did he claim to be God? "...He is not here; he has risen, as he said..." (Matt. 28:6) We faculty and staff would be glad to openly exchange ideas with you on this topic, or you may visit <http://www.leaderU.com> and in the box labeled "Full Text Search" type in "resurrection".

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The 22nd Annual Greek Extravaganza opened Saturday at the UCF Arena with the Central Florida Step-Off. Dera Davis, of the movies *Barbershop 1 & 2*, hosted the event, which featured music by T.N.L. Entertainment.



PHOTOS BY JAN SVOBODA / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Executive branch's funding cut

FROM A1

instance, Merolle could reference Comptroller Andrew Bledsoe's breakdowns of expenses by how much funding different types of organizations received from SGA. Governance councils, like the Greek Council, were given a total of \$44,097 so far over the course of the 2003-2004 fiscal year, including money allotted in the 2003-2004 ASF budget. However, based upon how many students governance councils cover, giving them money became one of SGA's 'best values'. For each student part of a governance council, the organization received an average of \$1.72. This is considered a bargain when compared, for instance, to military organizations, which SGA has given \$4,526.67 to over the course of this year. This breaks down to \$61.73 per student.

Part of that \$8.5 million in the ASF budget will be given to the Senate to fulfill groups' requests for additional funding of clubs and organizations throughout the year. Last year, the Senate got over \$500,000 for this purpose. That money is then broken down into the Senate Working Fund, Office Supply and

Advertising, Registration and Travel, and the Speakers fund.

For this fiscal year, the Senate Working Fund, which funds general projects, is at 87 percent capacity, meaning 87 percent of its funds have already been distributed for the year. Office Supply and Advertising, which pays for paper, printing and other office materials, is at 52 percent capacity. Registration and Travel, which helps students attending conferences, is at 85 percent capacity, and Speakers, which pays for forums and guest lectures, is at 86 percent capacity.

Merolle wrote a bill to transfer money from the underused Speaker budget to the over-extended Registration and Travel budget. He and Bledsoe, the head financial officer for the SGA, worked together to write the bill and come up with a reasonable amount of money.

Bledsoe said that Senate spending is under control. "A lot of the reason they're on the right track is because they're concerned about spending. I told them to continue to be concerned about how they're spending and they'll be fine," he said.

The executive branch of the SGA is also given a budget from

Dollars from the Student Activity Fee spent per student on the following categories

Classification	Amount
Governance council	\$1.72
Honorary	\$2.78
Special interest	\$6.79
Religious	\$7.58
Ethnic minority / international	\$11.46
Political / social activism	\$12.32
Pre-professional	\$14.36
Service	\$21.40
Academic	\$27.35
Military	\$61.73
Sports	\$65.92

SOURCE: SGA FISCAL UNIT

the ASF money with which it can fund projects. President Brian Battles, who sits on the Activity and Service Fee committee, reduced the amount that incoming president, Kevin Peters, will have to work with by proposing cuts to some of the numbers. He explained that the budget had to be cut down and that Peters would be able to work just fine without all the requested funds.

SGA's fiscal year end on June 30, and the new fiscal year begins on July 1, which is when the Senate will be able to start distributing from the new budget.

The comptroller's job is to

keep track of funds and to advise the SGA on fiscal policy. "I asked the Senate at the beginning of the year what they wanted from me," Bledsoe explains. The Senate wanted Bledsoe to look for trends and give it advice based upon what he thought was wise expenditures. Bledsoe also gives senators a report every week on how much money they have spent and what the budget will be at if they pass everything on their agenda that night. "I try to make them aware of what the status is."

Some of the trends Bledsoe noticed included spikes in the senate's distribution of money in February, August and October. The spikes are easily explained. For instance, in August the Senate has a new budget to work with. October and February are key months for clubs asking for money because November and March are the main months for most clubs and organizations to attend conferences.

"I try not to get involved in politics," Bledsoe said. "I try to make sure we're on a level playing field ... that no one gets short-changed, and no one club is getting an exorbitant amount of money."

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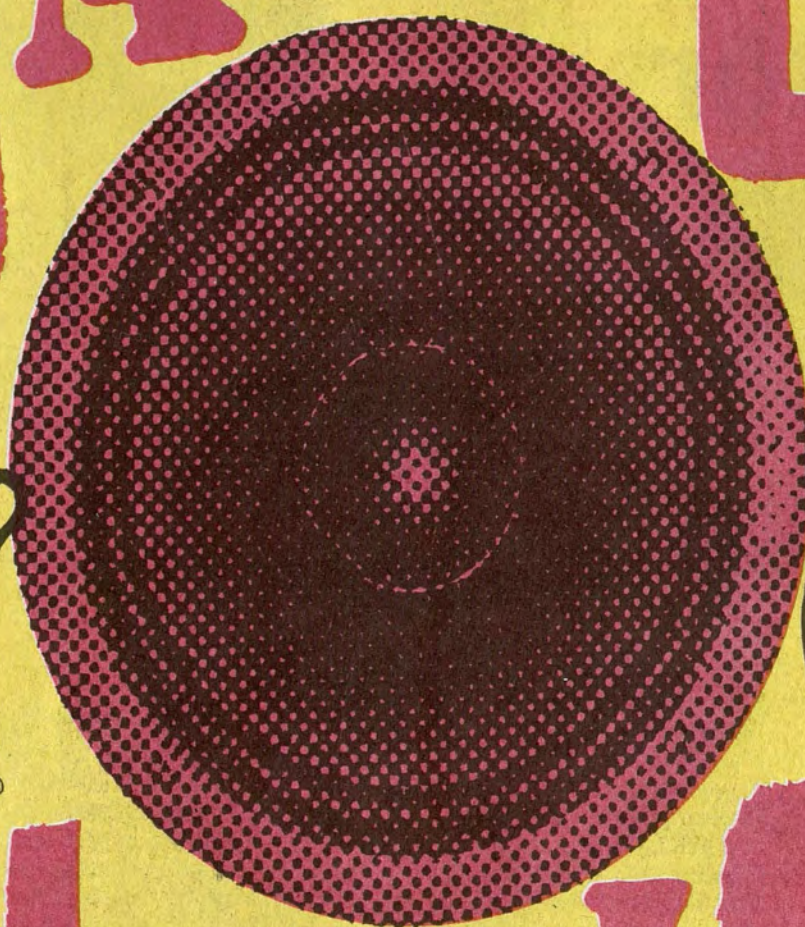
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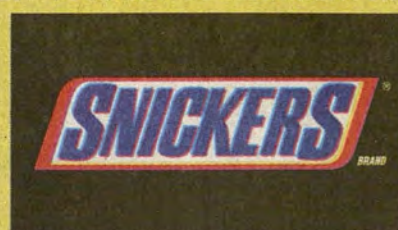
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OUR STANCE

P.C. thugs wrecked Afro humor

Talking is dangerous these days. So is putting on a wig, apparently. President John Hitt gave in to the pressure of political correctness last week by apologizing for wearing an Afro-style synthetic hairpiece, because he said it might have offended some people. Hitt wore the 'fro in honor of UCF basketball star Dexter Lyons, who perpetually sports a real Afro.

Associate Professor Kevin Meehan criticized Hitt publicly with a letter published in the *Orlando Sentinel* on Friday [see Reader Views, "Afro conveys more than a 'tribute'"]. Meehan described Hitt's action and that of fellow board member Dick Nunis as undercutting the goal of making UCF more diverse and culturally sensitive.

Where did Hitt go wrong? He didn't. He effectively admitted to being wrong, though, when he apologized to everyone, suggesting he might have been better off just wearing a Dexter Lyons basketball jersey.

The problem with the argument that Hitt was insensitive is that:

A. Dexter Lyons doesn't think Hitt did anything wrong, and the Afro was supposed to be a resemblance of Lyons'.

B. Hitt asked the coach if anyone on the team would be offended before he donned the wig. The coach said it would be just fine.

C. Many of the players on the



team are black. They've seen these wigs worn at home games by fans in tribute to Lyons' outstanding season. They saw Hitt put on the wig. They laughed along with everyone else in the room at the Board of Trustees meeting.

D. The wig isn't a symbol of black culture — not when you understand the context, as anyone with open eyes and ears on this campus knows. It's a symbol of one player, stretched perhaps to encompass a love of the whole team. Suggesting Hitt was wrong, when you understand why he did it, is itself wrong.

What Hitt did was a rare and welcomed glimpse of a man who has a sense of humor, a man who isn't afraid to humble himself before his students. Despite the innocent, funny nature of Hitt's gesture, it has received a decidedly chilly response from a small segment of the population pow-

erful enough to make him apologize. Consequently, it will snow on campus before we see Hitt try to be funny in public again, at least when a camera can capture it. There is a big difference between what Hitt did and a man smearing shoe polish on his face and making a joke about fried chicken and watermelon. There's a distinct line between jokes designed to pick on a race and jokes designed to be good-natured fun. Hitt was always on the right side of that line.

You can never make everyone happy. If you tie your shoes, somebody will complain. You may be called sexist for doing it, or homophobic, or even racist. You have to draw a line on how many people need to complain before it stops being crazy and starts being a cause for concern. What Hitt did was just funny, and he should never have to apologize for that.

OUR STANCE

Killing stops where education begins

There are people in Iraq right now who want to kill any westerner they can get their hands on. They showed that Thursday when they killed four American security contractors for seemingly no reason.

It doesn't seem reason would have anything to do with killing four civilians who were just doing their job to provide security for food convoys, but ask one of the people dragging their bodies through the streets, and you might get a different story.

Certain sects of the predominant Islamic religion have gotten to the point where religion is being used as a reason to kill people — the holy war mentality.

We're over there trying to find the people who start holy wars, which is a good start. The best way to take down violent religious sects is to stop the people who are doing all the preaching. There's a problem with that though: If enough people already believe that what they're doing is right, then killing off their leaders isn't going to break the "zombie curse."

People chanted "Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans," as they danced in the streets below the strung-up bodies of two of the men. That's hate on an almost incomprehensible level — one that a few key assassinations won't stop.

Some Iraqis continue to find hope in the teachings of clerics who preach violence. Those cler-

ics act as mentors to the hopeless, giving them hope for a better life — or afterlife — through a romanticized "killing for Allah."

Essentially God is being used as propaganda to exploit the feeble and destitute of Iraq for violent means.

Education has to get to them first. Without it, chaos is inevitable. As is continued killing. The Iraqi education system has been crippled by economic sanctions that have deprived Iraqis of books and printing materials.

After basic infrastructure is reestablished in Iraq, the rebuilding and strengthening of Iraq's education system needs to take precedence.

Fortunately, that's already begun. USAID, which is charged with helping to rebuild the education system, is building a system that eliminates the Hussein regime's "national education" courses that promoted the Baath party and Arab culture ideologies. Students under Hussein's regime were pressured into joining Baath party organizations. That has to be stopped, and it starts by eliminating Baathist texts.

An education system not dominated by a political party or religious affiliation offers the best alternative for students looking for authority in guiding Iraq's future.

Iraqis need education that will give them a number of options for problem-solving, options that

extend beyond violent intimidation of perceived enemies.

The current plans don't go far enough though. The plans call for the country's 6,000 existing primary schools to be refurbished, but according to the Iraqi ministry of education there still exists a need for twice as many schools to accommodate all of Iraq's school children.

Those who are fortunate enough to be in school are complaining. We receive reports from ABC or CNN that Iraqi schools are getting better, but other news organizations say they are not. The New Standard, a non-profit independent news organization, reports that Iraqi students are seeing empty promises from America. Only schools on main streets are being cosmetically refurbished so they look good, one student said. Books, looted by the hundreds of thousands from war-ravaged cities, aren't being replenished, and the cost of existing books is skyrocketing.

Though teacher salaries are increasing significantly, school supplies remain low, causing many college students to seek education in other countries.

The fight to liberate Iraq may have begun over a year ago, but liberation means nothing if Iraq's children will be imprisoned by ignorance. If education doesn't step in to give them hope, then there are plenty of opportunistic terrorist organizations that can teach them how to hate.



BEN HENDERSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

READER VIEWS

Afro conveys more than a 'tribute'

Walking into the UCF Library last Monday, I glanced down at the *Future* and was treated to a front-page color photo of President John Hitt dressed in an Afro wig.

The caption beneath the photo claimed he and Board of Trustees Chairman Dick Nunis both wore the wigs "in honor of UCF basketball star Dexter Lyons." Hitt repeated this rationalization in an e-mail apology and comments printed Thursday in the *Orlando Sentinel*. Many people are sickened by this performance but are too scared, tired and demoralized to say so, especially when confronting the two most powerful figures at UCF.

Much commentary focused on the idea that protesters have misread the spirit in which Hitt and Nunis donned their wigs. Yet it is Hitt and Nunis who still seem not to grasp the proper context of this incident. Afro wigs instantly evoke the legacy of minstrelsy and blackface humor. This legacy is tainted by its gross distortions of African-American speech and physique, and by being associated with the sort of Jim Crow-era violence we hope to have buried forever. Central Florida is a region marked by the history of race riots in Ocoee and elsewhere, the political assassination of NAACP official Harry T. Moore, decades of law-sanctioned segregation and the continuing disenfranchisement of thousands of black voters. In light of this local, regional and national history, what made Hitt and Nunis think it was funny (they are both clearly mugging in the photo) or honorific to re-animate the culture of minstrel shows?

Another line of commentary is that student fans created the Afro-wig trend. Even if you accept hypothetically the childish "everyone else was doing it" rationale, in point of fact the wigs only appeared late in the season at a home game against Troy State, when they were handed out as students entered the arena. I regularly attended home games throughout the season, and sat with appropriately boisterous student fans. None of them wore Afro wigs until invited to do so.

In Thursday's article, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported that UCF is "among the best in the country" for its diversity training. Hitt deserves much credit for funding workshops and programming such as the address last month by progressive black intellectual Cornel West.

Sadly, in one ill-advised gesture, the president himself has undercut his stated goal of making UCF more diverse, inclusive and culturally sensitive.

Clearly there is more work to be done when the university's political, moral and intellectual leader cannot be counted on to realize, on his own, that the image of him in an Afro wig will hurt many people and damage UCF's reputation.

— KEVIN MEEHAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Don't let wig overshadow season

I am so sick and tired of the hypersensitive, politically correct, status-quo world that we live in today. God forbid someone step out of line and we have an uproar. I was one of those people that thought it was cool that the president of our university actually has a softer, dare I say, human side. But some people were actually offended by him wearing a wig.

That is so funny to me because even if you didn't like it, why would you be offended? To my knowledge, Dexter Lyons was not offended. I, as an African-American male, was not offended. My African-American friends that I have asked about the incident were not offended. So who are these sheltered people offended for?

Maybe we have forgotten that not even two months ago, we had a game where there were thousands of UCF students wearing Afros in support of our basketball team. The reality is Dexter Lyons is one of the most marketable students at this university. His Afro is somewhat of a trademark. But because we have become so politically correct, it is downright absurd for the president of the university to have some fun and enjoy the high that our basketball team rode this year.

With all the other issues we have to deal

with at this university, I find it hilarious that this small thing has become so big. I applaud President Hitt not only for wearing the Afro, but also for being big enough to apologize when he didn't do anything wrong. Let us try to avoid becoming so bound to the status quo that we allow a good thing (like the basketball team's season) to be overshadowed by this.

— OLU ADULOJU
SGA SENATOR, HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Join the easily offended

I was reading the *Future* when all of a sudden I became utterly offended of the wig that President John Hitt wore to celebrate Dexter Lyons. As I looked at the picture I began convulsing into uncontrollable spasms right in the middle of class. I began foaming at the mouth and a dozen students had to subdue me because of the shock and horror of the picture.

Then low and behold I saw an apology letter from President John Hitt, among others, who were so upset that the *Future* did not explain the picture in fourth-grade detail. As a result, the spasms returned and I went into anaphylactic shock. I was rushed to the nearest medical center to have a doctor give me a diagnosis. The doctor said I had a severe disorder of being offended by everything like movies, TV shows, the media and just about anything else in my everyday life.

I was shocked, and of course offended, by what he said. So he gave me a prescription for my disorder, which was a large tube of model airplane glue. He said this would numb my thoughts of being offended into submission.

Angered and even more offended, I went to the library to do my own research on my disorder. It appeared I wasn't alone. There were millions of Americans just like me. They even had their own groups like the Christian Coalition, PTA, RSUWP (Rich Sheltered Upright White People) and AAA (Angry African-Americans). This brightened my outlook on life because I knew I was not alone in the fight for equality of being offended by everything.

I must thank the *Future* for opening my life to a whole new perspective. Now I can go on and try to convert others like me who suffer from this disorder. To the readers who are offended by my letter, let's unite. There is still hope for you.

— MATTHEW COOKE

Chappelle proves racism is alive

It amazes me that there is no major uprising about CAB having possibly brought the overly racist Dave Chappelle to perform, yet when President Hitt and a member of the Board of Trustees wear wigs in honor of our great basketball season and the man who was responsible for a large part of it, there is.

The major problem with today's society is that while we should be at a point where racism is a null argument, you have a person like Chappelle who admits that he hates white people. Maybe that is just a part of his act, but it's that kind of statement that does not allow us to become one society.

— GLENN SCHNECK, JR.

Party overshadows Relay for Life

I was glad to see some tickets still remained unclaimed last week for the Universal Knights event. It happened to coincide with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life — an event that draws hundreds of UCF students and community members together in the effort to help find a cure. SGA shows complete lack of respect for the event and those participating by hosting a program like this on the same date. It would be like Walt Disney World offering free tickets to UCF students on the day of Spirit Splash. I'm proud to walk the track along with the UCF community during the Universal Knights event.

— ERIC HARRIS

SGA should rethink spending

In reference to "Universal crisis" [Reader Views, March 25], I wish to reinforce the point but from a different perspective.

PLEASE SEE **READER VIEWS** ON A9

Central Florida Future

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READER VIEWS

FROM A8

Every year UCF students enjoy a free night of fun at Islands of Adventure. While I am genuinely happy that SGA provides such a great opportunity, I take another stance when it comes to the relative amount of funds spent. Yes, I am going to sound nerdy, dry and not fun, but hopefully I will get my point across.

As a graduate student, my views may differ from the larger undergraduate student body. However, in most graduate programs, research is strongly encouraged, if not required. A key thing to do to get our foot in the door is to write and submit research papers to academic conferences and meetings. Financial support from the university is therefore crucial.

I was directed to SGA to obtain funding. After completing a financial workshop, attending a

committee meeting where (relevant?) questions were asked (even though I spent considerable time to document everything) and making several trips to see the accountants, I managed to squeeze out a \$300 approval (the maximum allowed). Three hundred dollars usually covers barely the lodging or registration fee. For the rest of the expenses, we are on our own.

Yet, knowing the cost of the 12,000 Islands of Adventure tickets is about \$140,000, there may be a way to flex the budget. I am wondering how the SGA funds are allocated. Probably not based on value-adding activities to the school, when you consider that each piece of research published from UCF by a professor or a graduate student contributes to the reputation of the school, academically speaking, and that is what will benefit the students.

—CHARLES H. CHO

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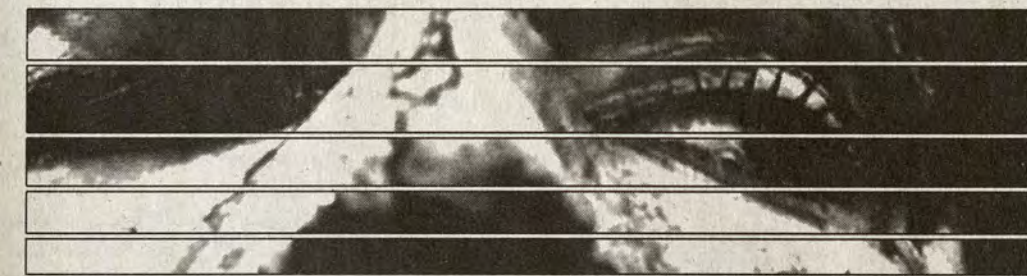
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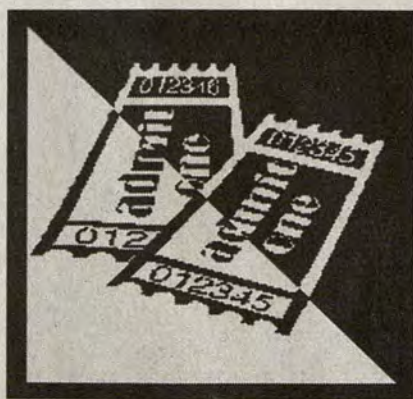
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INSIDE THE
NUMBERS

5

Offensive categories
that UCF softball
shortstop Stephanie
Best leads in
the A-Sun.

3

Times this season that
Best has been named
A-Sun "Player of the
Week."

0

A-Sun softball players
that have won
POTW more than
once this season.

8

Consecutive A-Sun
wins for first place
UCF softball.

Briefs

UCF softball will host a special 'Softball in Paradise' promotion before Saturday's home doubleheader against Florida State. Festivities will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the UCF Softball Complex and will include an Easter egg hunt as well as a best lawn chair contest and a visit from the Easter Bunny. There will also be plenty of free food, music and an inflatable Slip N' Slide.

Upcoming

Baseball hosts Bethune-Cookman at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Jay Bergman Field. ... Softball hosts a doubleheader against Campbell at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the UCF Softball Complex. ... Men's tennis travels to Tampa to take on USF Wednesday. ... Women's tennis heads across town to face Rollins on Saturday.

Quotables

"I was disappointed in the defense. I was waiting around for somebody to hit somebody. We're trying new guys at new positions, but I still didn't see them strike any blows today."

— UCF FOOTBALL COACH GEORGE O'LEARY AFTER SATURDAY'S SCRIMMAGE

"We're mixing it up, just seeing who makes the least amount of mistakes more than anything else. Obviously I thought both quarterbacks did some nice things today."

— O'LEARY ON QUARTERBACKS STEVEN MOFFETT AND GERRY CONNELL

A GROWING
RESENTMENT OVER
AFROGATEFans respond to
racial accusationsASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

What started out as a light-hearted homage to the UCF men's basketball team has now turned into what most UCF fans have dubbed "Afro-gate."

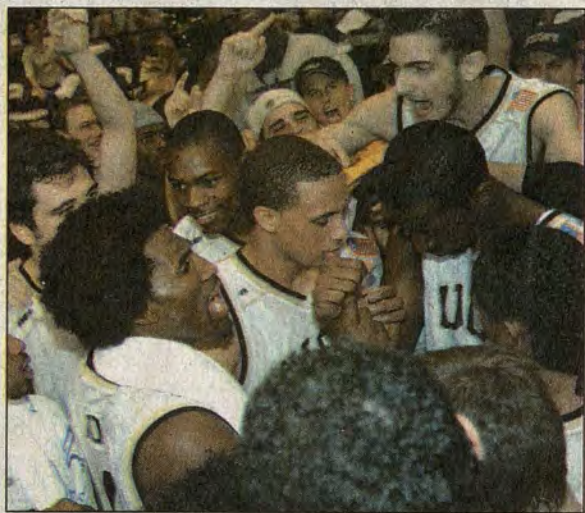
Responding to the March 29 issue of the *Future*, in which a photo of UCF President John Hitt donning a large synthetic Afro wig at a recent UCF Board of Trustees meeting ran on the front page, Kevin Meehan, an associate professor of English, labeled Hitt's actions as racist.

Hitt sent an e-mail apology to the entire UCF community. In the e-mail, Hitt stated: "As president, I have a long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, and I sincerely apologize to any members of the UCF family and community who may have been offended."

Caught in the middle of the accusations and name-calling is UCF men's basketball star Dexter Lyons, whose trademark Afro hairdo has inadvertently been the catalyst. Lyons, however, wasn't offended by Hitt's fake hairdo. He felt revered.

"It's a big deal for me to get the president of this university to put on an Afro wig," Lyons said. "That wasn't some guy from a club or some arts and crafts group. That was the president of our school. That's an honor."

While Meehan could not

PLEASE SEE **AFRO** ON B2

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE



MATTHEW WRIGHT / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

UCF men's basketball star Dexter Lyons, top, is surrounded by fans as they celebrate a victory. UCF President John Hitt and Dick Nunis, chairman of the UCF Board of Trustees, above, were criticized for wearing Afro wigs in honor of Lyons' and the Knights' winning season.

Brown erupts into offensive power

Baseball's left fielder
tears up Jacksonville
pitchers for a sweepFRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

UCF's best baseball season in four years continued over the week in Jacksonville, with the Knights sweeping their three-game series against the Jacksonville Dolphins (14-18, 5-10 A-Sun) over the weekend. The No. 23 UCF baseball team is now 27-5 with a 13-2 Atlantic Sun Conference record.

UCF won the first game 10-4 behind another stellar performance from UCF starter and A-Sun "Pitcher of the Week" Kyle Bono. Bono struck out 11 Dolphins, the

most batters he has ever struck out in his career. Bono is now 5-0 after going six innings and allowing only two hits and just one earned run. Bono received plenty of run support, with five runs being driven in by his left side of the infield.

Chandler Rose's two-run single to center field got UCF on the board early, giving the Knights a 2-0 lead. Rose added a sacrifice fly in the sixth, and Marshall Bernhard added two RBIs. Drake Wade also hit a two-run double in the third.

Freshman Brian Brooks started for UCF in the second game, giving up six runs in four and two-thirds innings. UCF gave up nine runs, however the Knights' hot bats put up 10 runs for the 10-9 win.

One of the keys to the Knights'

PLEASE SEE **TIMPNER** ON B2

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Junior left fielder Dee Brown turned in two home runs and eight RBIs as UCF beat Jacksonville.

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports EditorStop the
insanity!The worst thing in
sports isn't a hairdo

University of Colorado football players allegedly raped a former female teammate.

A basketball player from Baylor killed a teammate, and his coach tried to cover it up.

The University of Miami football team's top recruit has been arrested 11 times in the past four years.

Last week, UCF President John Hitt wore an Afro wig to honor the men's basketball team's star player, Dexter Lyons.

Seems a bit trivial, doesn't it?

It should be, but it's not. Instead it's like Janet Jackson's nipple, Monica Lewinsky's dress and Britney and Madonna's kiss all rolled into one.

The only difference is that instead of the two biggest sexual icons of all-time locking lips, we're talking about a white dude who wore an Afro wig.

Are we really this bored? Is this all we have to talk about? Better yet, is this really the way that we're going to end this season-to-remember?

UCF fans are still basking in the collegiate orgasm that was this past men's basketball season. The NCAA Championship game takes place tonight, and I couldn't give a flying flop which teams are in it. The only thing that I think about is how UCF would have matched up against Georgia Tech or Connecticut.

But no, I can't even take a second to think such happy thoughts, because an attention-starved professor won't let us have any fun. Everyone put your hands out because Kevin Meehan is coming around with the racial ruler to smack us back to the 1960s.

Meehan, an associate professor of English at UCF, is the prime reason why so many people are afraid to speak their minds nowadays. Last week Meehan attacked Hitt for wearing an Afro wig in honor of Lyons and the best men's basketball team in school history at a recent UCF Board of Trustees meeting. Meehan charged that Hitt's actions were racist.

Political correctness has finally hit rock bottom. The P.C. gestapo has reached a disgusting level in which light-hearted jokes are twisted into sad fallacies. With people like Meehan, a sense of humor is rarer than Jeffrey Dahmer's lunchmeat.

We celebrate the lives of great activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. because they made strides to take the color out of our skin. What they did in their lifetimes is what makes it possible for a white sports writer to embrace and shine a spotlight on black athletes.

Their actions made it possible for thousands of UCF fans to look at a basketball court and open their hearts, not to a group of black athletes, but to a team of human beings. Believe it or not, modern sports fans aren't the same breed that threatened Jackie Robinson's life every time that he stepped on a field 60 years ago.

It's a brand-new world. If a woman can win a slam dunk competition that has been forever dominated by men, then I think it's fair to assume that people of all races can look at a sporting event and not see the players as colors but as athletes.

But now our storied season has an asterisk next to it. Fans will always remember this 25-win season. Unfortunately they'll also remember that their morals and judgment were questioned because of fake hair.

UCF basketball is not about black and white. It's black and gold.

I wore an Afro this season, and I'd do it again. If Meehan wants to take my wig, he'll have to pry it from my cold, dead hands.

Ashley Burns can be reached at
sports@UCFnews.com



Members of Kirk's Jerks, the Rowdy Knights and Lyons' Den often wore Afro wigs at home games this season in support of the men's basketball team, which won 25 games and an A-Sun title.

Afro wigs cause wave of fan controversy

FROM B1

be reached for comment, in a letter criticizing Hitt's actions, he wrote: "The wigs only appeared late in the season at a home game against Troy State, when they were handed out as students entered the Arena."

The Student Government Association and UCF Sports Marketing did indeed distribute hundreds of novelty Afro wigs at the January 31 game. However, the large, curly mops showed up well before that night, which showcased the largest home crowd ever at a UCF basketball game.

Early in the season, the Knights embarked on a 13-game winning streak, which was ended at Meehan's recollected home game against Troy State. However, it was early in the streak when a group of fans emerged with big Afro wigs and black t-shirts that read "Lyons' Den."

"By wearing the Afros we were just supporting our best player," Dave Dewhurst, a member of Lyons' Den, said. "We were just sporting the hair that he [Lyons] brings to the home games, and trying to give a little extra electricity for the team to feed off and continue the great season they were having."

Alongside the Rowdy Knights and Kirk's Jerks, two groups infamous for their support of UCF basketball, Lyons' Den took its place at every home game in the rows behind the opposing teams' bench. Win or lose, Lyons embraced the fans of Lyons' Den after every home game, up to and including the

season finale against Campbell. "I honestly feel that he thought it was a good idea," Dewhurst said of Lyons. "I think he fed off of it. He gave us little signs and head nods during the game after a good play. He came up to us after the games and recognized how much we were cheering. It was an overall good thing for the team and the crowd."

Members of the Rowdy Knights and Kirk's Jerks also wore Afro wigs throughout the season, which accompanied signs that read, amongst other slogans, "Fear the 'Fro."

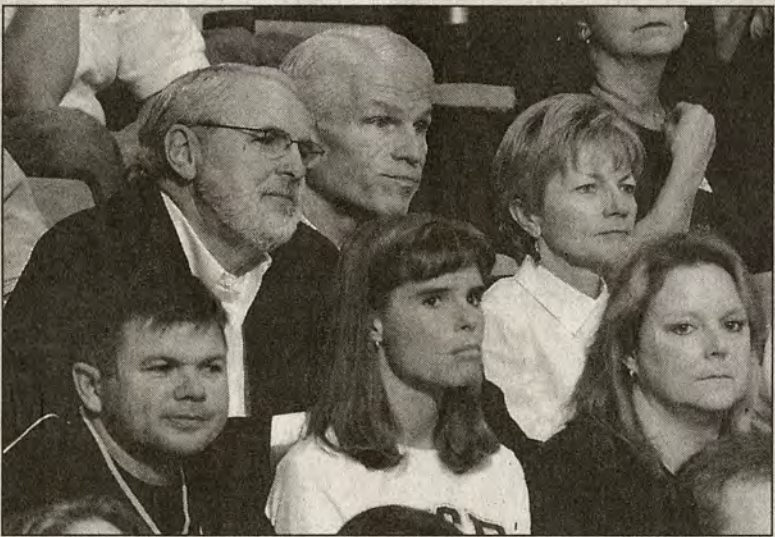
"I was one of the people that was proud to don an Afro," Adrian Moore, president of the Rowdy Knights, said. "I was the one holding up the sign that said 'Fear the 'Fro.' It was definitely not being racist. It was our way of showing support for the star player of the team. He's the player that's behind the fans as much as we're behind him."

Like many other fans, Moore believes that Hitt's attendance at the final UCF home game as well as his wearing of the Afro wig does nothing more than promote school spirit.

"Anyone who saw the [Future] picture and read the caption underneath it could not fathom that it was racist," Moore said. "It adequately stated that Hitt was in support of Dexter Lyons."

However, Moore also believes that this negative backlash might reduce Hitt's public fanfare in the future.

"I think the season was great," Moore said. "It's a shame that these things had to come



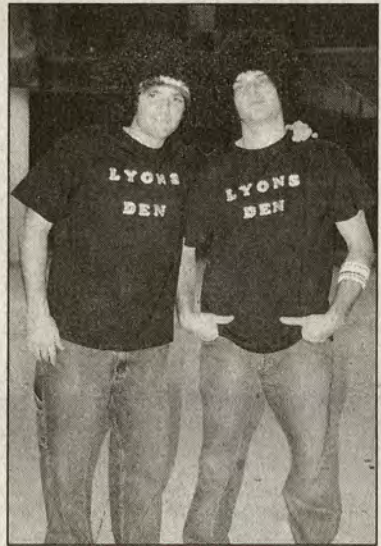
UCF President John Hitt, above, took a seat with the fans at the final men's basketball home game this season. Members of Lyons' Den, right, supported UCF's star player Lyons.

out when Hitt was showing support for UCF. If anything I think it will make him not want to show as much support for athletic programs."

Many other fans have voiced their positive and negative opinions to Meehan through e-mails. Meehan, though, has responded mostly through an automated response in which he states that he looks forward to "doing more good work for UCF in the future."

While Meehan believes that he is doing good work for UCF, many fans like Dewhurst are left wondering why their good-natured fanfare has been labeled a racist act.

"I just look at everyone as individuals and athletes," Dewhurst said. "I never look at colors. Like I said, I just tried to bring some extra electricity and



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

let them build off of it." "We're trying to get rid of racism in America and people can jump on this and say it's racist without even looking into it," Moore said. "It causes a bigger problem than we can deal with."

Timpner and LaFleur add second home runs

FROM B1

success this season has been their ability to jump on opponents early. UCF has outscored opponents this season by a mark of 95-24. UCF jumped all over Dolphins starter Brett Nagy in game two, tagging him for six runs and causing him to be removed in the third inning.

Dee Brown, Matt LaFleur and Clay Timpner each hit their second home runs of the year to take the team lead and give UCF some much-needed offense. Timpner's home run was the Knights' first leadoff home run since 2001, a Mike Myers dinger also against Jacksonville.

LaFleur's home run to left-center in the second inning made the score 3-0, but Jacksonville would make things interesting.

The Dolphins exploded for six runs in the fifth inning, giving the Dolphins a 7-6 lead. With three runs already in and runners on first and second base, Brooks would exit and freshman pitcher Tim Bascom would come on for relief.

Brown's home run gave the lead back to UCF. Brown added his sixth RBI of the game in the top of the seventh, a run that would prove to be crucial. In the bottom of the seventh inning, the Dolphins added two more runs to bring the game within a run, however the UCF defense stopped JU short.

Bascom (4-2) pitched the

Baseball A-Sun standings				
Team	Conf.	W	L	Overall W L
UCF (23)	13	2	27	5
Stetson	9	3	20	12
Belmont	7	5	21	10
Georgia State	8	7	13	17
Florida Atlantic (22)	6	6	26	7
Troy State	6	6	18	9
Gardner-Webb	6	6	13	16
Lipscomb	5	7	8	19
Jacksonville	5	9	14	17
Campbell	4	8	11	17
Mercer	3	12	14	22

remaining two and one-third innings for the win.

The Knights completed the sweep of the Dolphins in yesterday's game three, as ace right-hander Matt Fox allowed three runs over six innings to boost his record to 8-0.

JU jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the second inning, however UCF put up two runs in the top of the sixth to regain the lead 4-3. Brown hit his third home run of the season in the top of the seventh, sparking a five-run inning.

Despite giving up four more runs to the Dolphins, UCF took the game by a 9-7 final.

UCF now holds the all-time series edge at 30-29. UCF goes to Boca Raton for its biggest road series of the year thus far, when the Knights face division rival and last season's conference champion Florida Atlantic.



Left fielder Dee Brown leads UCF baseball with 40 RBIs and three home runs and has started in all 32 games this season. Brown is tied for second on the team with a .367 batting average.

BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

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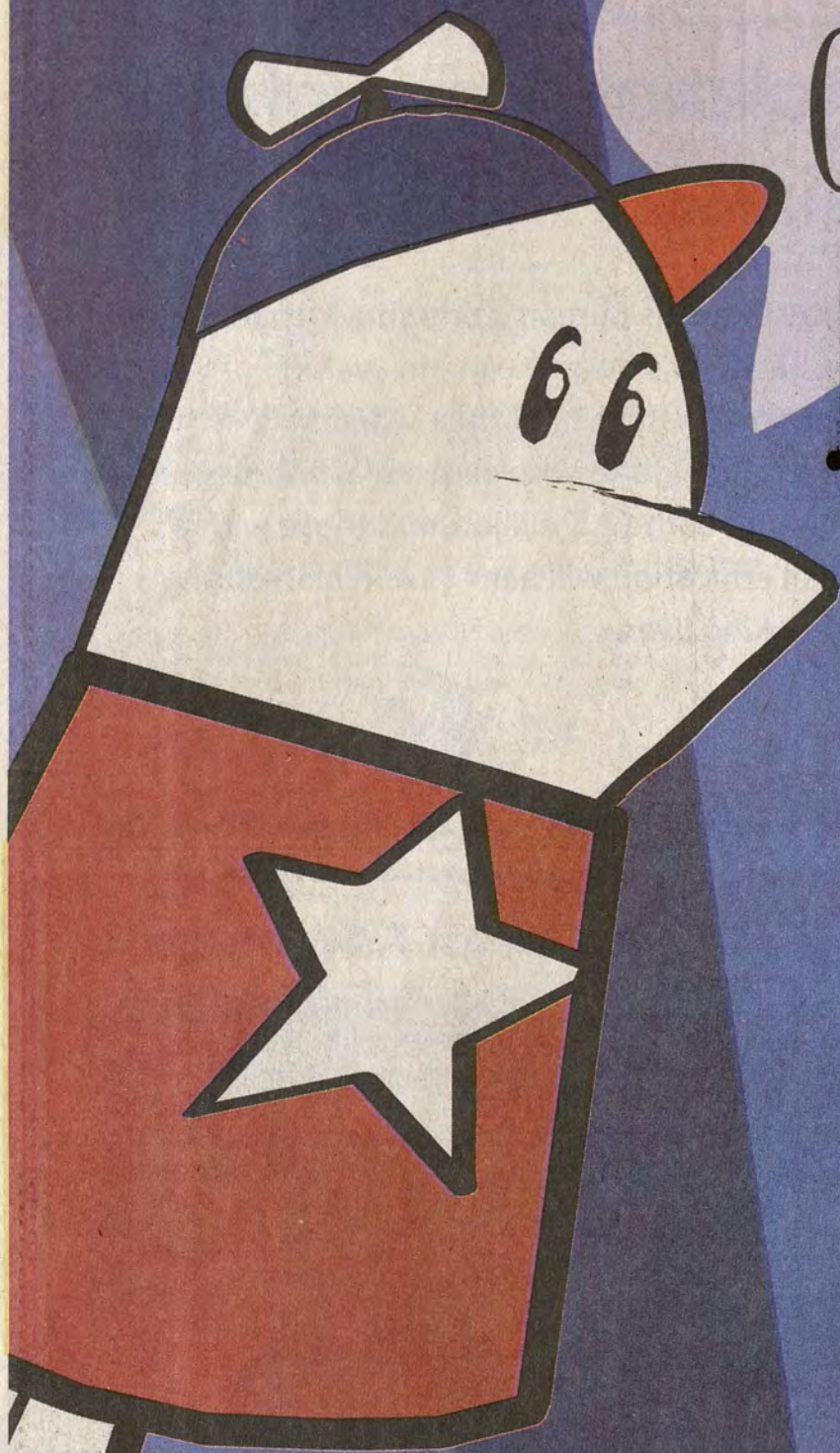
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OSI schedule of events



Monday, April 5

12pm-2pm CAB Cultural and Fine Arts Presents the band "Four Car Garage" on the Student Union stage.

Tuesday, April 6

11am-2pm VUCF **Green Ribbon Day** on the Student Union Patio. Come learn more about organ and tissue donation at the info table.

1pm **Knights of the Round Table** meeting for Clubs and Organizations in SU Key West.

Wednesday, April 7

7pm CAB Cultural and Fine Arts Culinary Series: **Espresso Tasting** at Natura Coffee and Tea.

Friday, April 9

12pm-2pm CAB Cultural and Fine Arts presents the band "Four Car Garage" on the Student Union stage.

6:30pm CAB Cultural and Fine Arts presents **Homestar Runner** in the VAB Auditorium. Meet the creators of the Homestar Runner cartoon.

9pm-1am CAB Cultural and Fine Arts introduces its first Prom event, **Poseidon's Enchantment**, in the Recreation and Wellness Center. The event is free and dress is come-as-you-please.

Wednesday, April 14

12pm-2pm **Airbrush tattoos** outside the Student Union.

8pm CAB Cinema presents an outdoor showing of "Lord of the Rings" at the mall between HPA and CU.

Thursday, April 15

7pm **Symphony Under the Stars** at the Reflecting Pond. The concert will feature the UCF Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble.

8pm **College Night at Florida Music Festival** at the Social Backlot downtown. Event is free with a valid student ID. Visit cab.ucf.edu for more info.

Sunday, April 18

1pm **VUCF** needs volunteers to to play games with residents of Sunbelt Healthcare. A carpool will leave from Millican Hall at 1pm.

Monday, April 19

7-9pm CAB Cultural and Fine Arts Culinary Series: **Pastry Knights Flambee Finale!** at Natura Tea and Coffee.

Homestar is coming

a> Hey Strong Bad,
Why don't you come to UCF? Everybody here
likes you so much better than the dopey
Homestar Runner.
your friend-
Knightro

You're right, Kanite-ro.
I am cooler than
Homestar. I'll be
there April 9th

COMPY 386

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FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Softball stretches streak to eight

Stephanie Best hit her 14th home run of the season as UCF swept yesterday's doubleheader against Gardner-Webb. The Knights (31-11, 8-0 A-Sun) shut out the Bulldogs (22-22-1, 6-4 A-Sun) in both games. Lindsay Enders improved her record to 14-3 with the 6-0 game one victory. Enders struck out seven as she recorded her 14th complete game of the season. Kelly McIntyre matched Enders in the second game as she went the distance in the 7-0 victory. McIntyre also struck out seven as she picked up her sixth complete game of the season.

O'Leary's offense looking sharp

Quarterbacks Steven Moffett and Gerry Connell both showed improved passing skills in Saturday's scrimmage, the second of the spring practices. Moffett and Connell both had passes of more than 10 yards for touchdowns. Connell hit tight end Darcy Johnson for the first score, while Moffett found wide receiver Tavaris Capers for the second passing TD.

Not to be outdone by the air attack, running backs Alex Haynes and Dontavious Wilcox also showed off their offensive improvements. Against the first-



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Shortstop Stephanie Best has earned three A-Sun "Player of the Week" nods this season.

team defense, Wilcox took off for a 50-yard run and later added a seven-yard touchdown scamper. Keith Williams also got a score in on the ground as he punched in from three yards out.

Women's tennis plucks Cardinals

Five Knights were victorious in singles competition as UCF easily did away with the Louisville Cardinals 6-1 Saturday. UCF improved its record to 9-8 behind strong singles and doubles play from Anna Westin and Kristina Lohmos. Both Westin and Lohmos were dominant in singles, and the duo combined for one of UCF's two doubles victories.

Women's golf finishes seventh

Senior Sarah Greene shot a three-round 231 to finish tied for eighth overall at the Ryder Florida Women's Golf Collegiate Championship in Miami Lakes this past weekend. The women's team finished seventh with a team score of 968, 13 strokes behind sixth place FAU. Rollins College took first place in the tournament behind a first place finish from Charlotte Campbell. USF and Miami rounded out the top three while UCF finished 12 strokes ahead of Florida Southern.

Track stars shatter school records

Katie Fowke and Tiffany Roebuck scribbled their names in the UCF track and field record books as the two put up strong performances at the USF Invitational Friday in Tampa. Fowke hit an even 12 feet in the pole vault competition to eclipse the previous UCF record, while Roebuck notched an even distance of 171 feet in the hammer throw, killing the old record of 158 feet and 8 inches. LaTrica Firby and Diana Chin also had strong performances as they finished second and third respectively in the long jump.

— FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS



corner
imsports.ucf.edu

AYA FUNAHASHI
Contributing Writer

Prime Time Players defeat Sigma Chi in knowledge

Who has scored the most power-play goals in NHL history? What was the first year the Olympics were televised? These guys know. Victor Anderson, Jeff Sharon and Oscar Diaz made up the reigning champs, the Prime Time Players, that outwitted nine other teams to be named the sports trivia champs. Prime Time Players faced off against

Sigma Chi's Matt Oberlender, Marc Ceigel and Brian Peluso in the championships. The teams were asked 25 questions in the final round, but that wasn't enough for Sigma Chi as it fell to the Prime Time Players. The Prime Time Players keep their title for the third year in a row.

Battleship sinks R.O.U.S. to win water polo

The name didn't suit the team as You Sank My Battleship won IM's first innertube water polo tournament. Six teams with 36 participants came out on the clear-sky, 80-degree Saturday weather to be the first innertube water polo champs. The pool play consisted of a two-game match to seed each team in the playoffs. The Seabiscuits went into the playoffs as the favorite, being the only undefeated team, but were closely followed by the No. 2-seeded R.O.U.S. R.O.U.S.

had no problem defending its seed as it defeated Lambda Chi Alpha in the second round 7-4, sending R.O.U.S. to the title game. You Sank My Battleship won its first-round game to meet up with the Seabiscuits in the second round to fight for the chance to compete in the championship game against R.O.U.S. In what was probably the most intense fight for the finish, Battleship slid past the Seabiscuits 10-9. With the evenly-matched R.O.U.S. and Battleship in the championship game, it looked to be even more intense than Battleship's game against the Seabiscuits. However, with great defense by goalie Vladimir Voyard-Todal combined with offensive efforts by tournament MVP Adam Wides, Battleship sunk R.O.U.S.'s chances for a coveted IM champ shirt, winning 7-5. For pictures check out the intramural Web site.

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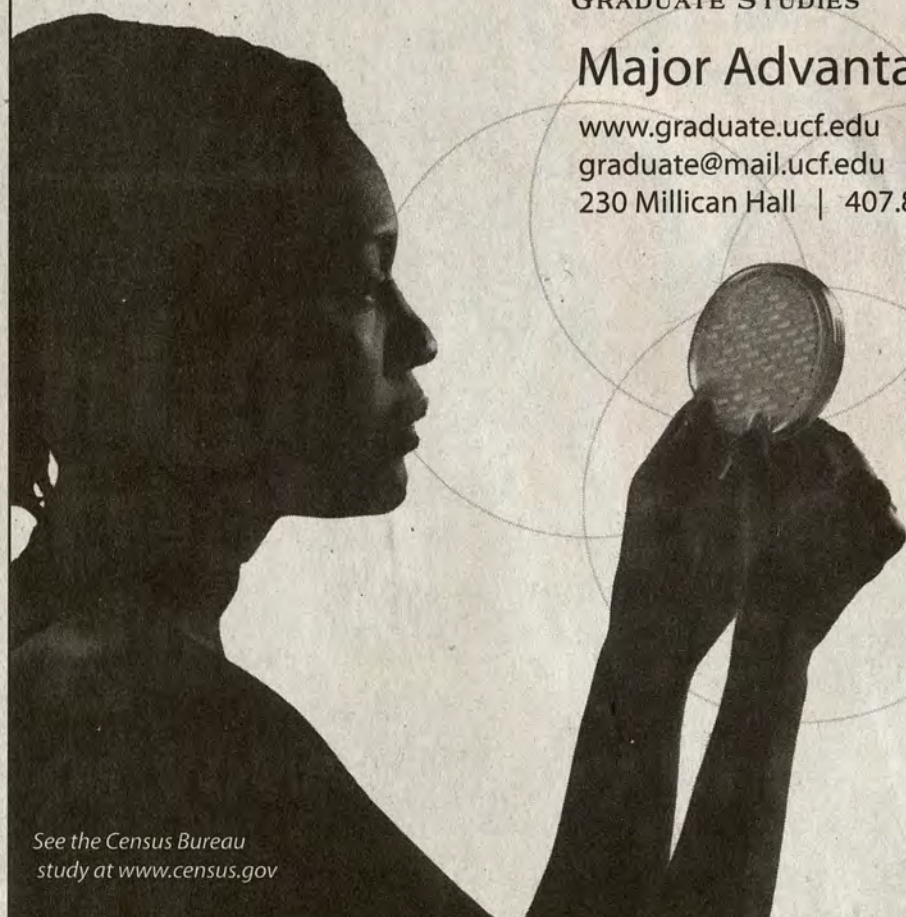


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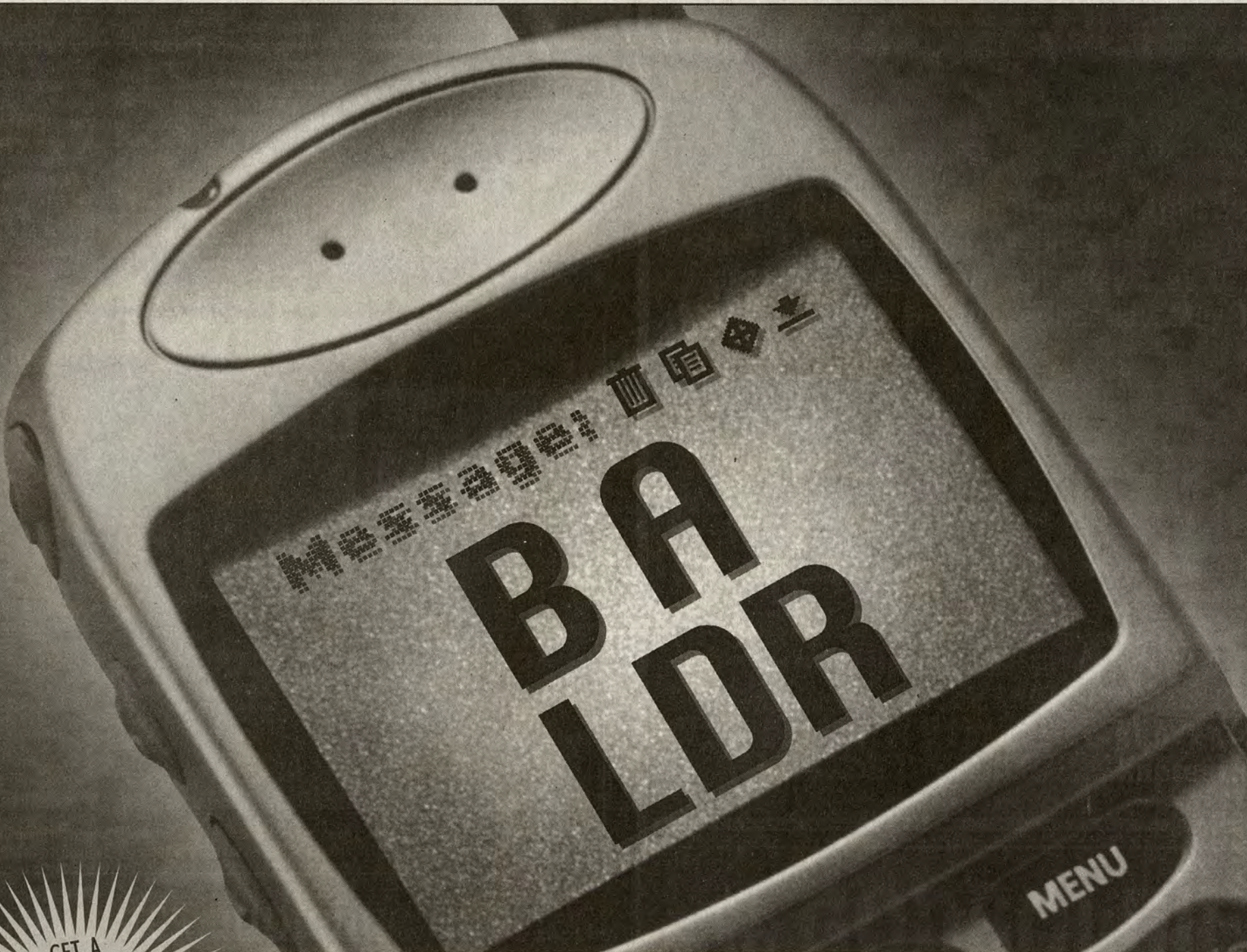
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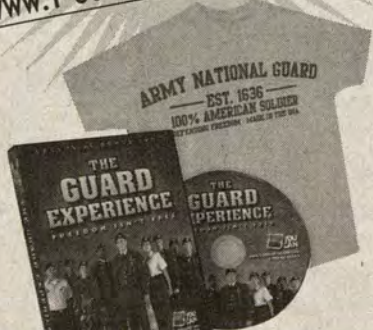
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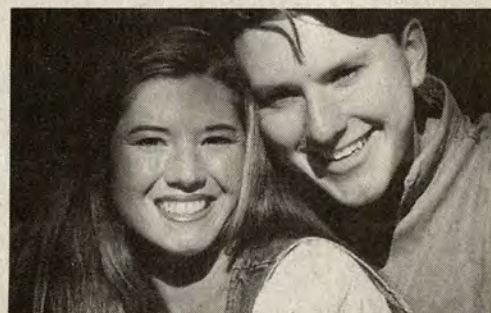
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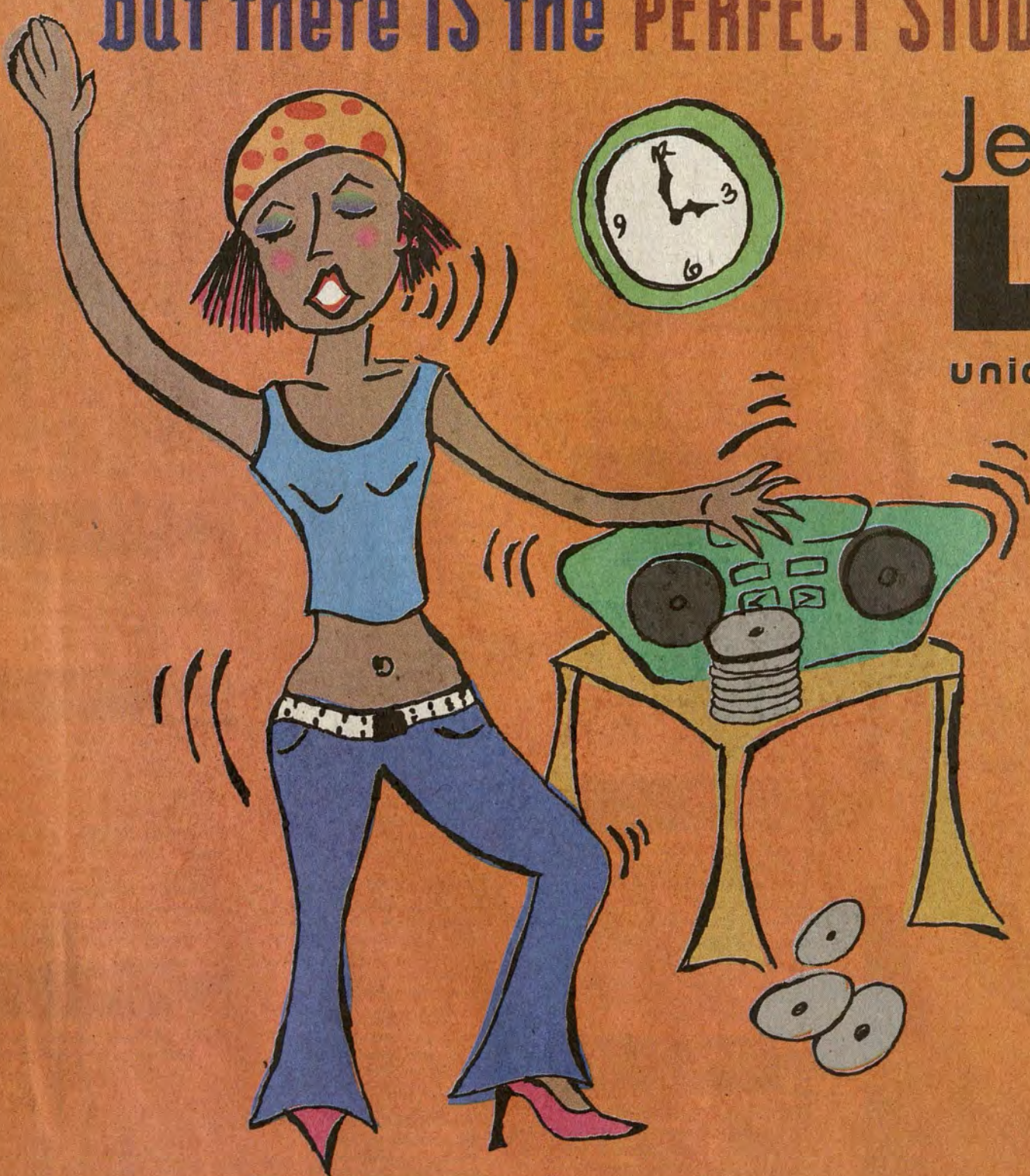
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POOL VIEW--Jefferson Commons 1/1 in 4/4 avail March-April till Aug 3rd. Flex move-in date, \$485 incl all util, high speed internet, W/D, shuttle, extras, and carport! 3rd flr. Call Mike @ 407-273-5113.

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Furnished room available now in 3/3 apt. May 1st-Aug 31st. 3rd floor, on special for \$400/mo includes all utilities and W/D. Please call Pamela at 813-240-8041.

1/1 in 4/4 in Pegasus Landing. Available May 1st-Aug 31st. 3rd floor, on special for \$400/mo includes all utilities and W/D. Please call Pamela at 813-240-8041.

Largest Room in Furn. 4/4 Apt. at Boardwalk. 1st floor. All util. incl. Phone, W/D, cable & ethernet. F only. Beg. 5/1/04. \$485/mo. Call 386-295-4285 or email: natrellt@hotmail.com.

2 bedrooms in 4/2 available ASAP! \$475/mo all utilities included except phone. Lease ends Aug 4th. Please call Megan or Sharon @ 407-381-1947

1/1 in 3/3 available mid May w/flexible move in date. \$490/mo includes EVERYTHING! Great roommates. Female pref. Across the street from UCF. Please call 407-491-2014.

2 rooms in 4/4 at Riverwind. Avail. May 1st - July 31st. Fully furn. All util. incl. and phone. \$480/mo. Call Sandy at 321-754-1540.

Master bdrm/ private bath \$370/mo. + 1/2 util. no sec. dep! W/D, full kitchen, lawn service, no pets. Lease ends July 2004. Move in ASAP! Please call Lisa at 407-923-8880.

SUMMER LEASE- M/F wanted in 4/2 flat in Jefferson Lofts. Pool front. furnished Incl. all utilities, ethernet, tanning, gym, w/d, and hot tub. Paying \$497/mo. but willing to negotiate. Call (727)385-6396

275 FOR RENT:
Sublease

Sublease @ University House, avail mid-April \$418/mo. includes all utilities, ethernet, 3 HBO's, and free UCF shuttle. Minutes from UCF! Please call 352-634-4792

1bd with study/extra bdrm. Huge bathrm, ethernet, 24/hr. Fitness rm. Bball+Vball courts, pool, jacuzzi. Fully furn. w/ W/D. 8 HBO chnl. Comp. Lab, free tanning 4 res. Need sublease by 5/1/04 Please call Lindy 321-689-1881.

Jefferson Lofts. 4/2. \$520/mo. May 1st - Aug. 1st. 6 HBO channels, furnished and includes utilities. Call 561-762-7210.

CHEAP Summer Sublease Available! Pegasus Landing \$375/mo. Incl. Everything! 3BR/3Bth - One room avail. Access to storage, flex. move-in/out dates. Call 407-362-3392 Kelly.

Looking For Summer Housing?? 1bd/1ba in 4/4 @ Peg. Landing. All util. incl. Great roommates-Avail. ASAP! MUST SELL! - Lease ends 7/31/04. \$480/mo. Call Angela 407-362-4258.

Summer Term: 1 bed avail in 4/2 \$425/mo incl everything! 1 bed also avail in 2/2 \$535/mo incl everything! Call Eric or Jen 407-489-0877 or evoatcollege@yahoo.com

Pegasus Landing 2/2 avail. ASAP through July All util., ethernet, 3 HBO's, & much more!! No move-in fees! Call Jenn 321-213-0205

MUST LEASE! 2nd floor bd w/ loft in a 4/2 in Jeff lofts. \$480/mo for May - Aug 3, incl. all util. with ethernet, tanning and extras. BRAND NEW, clean, furn., great F roommates. Rent neg., 321-698-4591.

Female to sublease room in 4/2. Cable, ethernet, furniture, and utilities included. Across from UCF, Northgate Apts. March free. \$380/mo. Please call Erika 321-276-5761

Sublease now in Boardwalk Apts. for M. 1ST MONTH FREE!!! Min. to UCF!!! \$495/mo. Fully furn., water, electric and cable incl. Shuttle service. Call 407-737-2732.

Two UCF females looking for third female roommate to complete 3/2 apt. with all amenities. Off campus on Red Bug Lake. Nice apt. \$300/mo. incl. utils. Call Katie at 407-620-6197.

1/1 in 4/4 @ Village at Science Drive avail now through Aug 5th w/flex move-in date. Regularly \$520 now \$375/mo incl all util, ethernet, fully furnished. Please call Eddie @ 352-514-1188

AVAILABLE April 27TH! 1 room in 4/4 at Riverwind Apartments. Fully furn., util. incl., shuttle and ethernet. \$485/mo. Call Karen at 954-536-9331.

Room for rent in 4/4 at Pegasus Landing. F only. No Move-In fees!!! Util. incl. Balcony/patio. Across from pool. \$490/mo. Starting 06/04 - 07/05. Call Erica at 954-937-0947.

1bd/1ba in 4/4 at Jefferson Commons. Old Renewal rate only \$485/mo! All util. incl., 3rd floor, tennis ct. view. Free shuttle to UCF. Beautiful pool. Call Anthony at 954-461-6939.

SUMMER SUBLEASE Furnished 1bd/ba available @ The Village at Science Drive. M or F Only \$385/mo., more info contact Erika @ 407-362-4041

Anyone Want \$100 Cash? I will give you \$100 cash if you sublease my apt. at Pegasus Landing! Beg. May 1st - July 30th. All util. incl. Call for more info at 407-362-2216.

Take over my lease Mid-May. Lg 1 bd apt. near UCF w/fireplace and W/D. \$681.25, keep sec. dep. Call Greg at 407-733-2974 or email gtm256@cfl.rr.com.

Summer Sublease! 1/1 in 4/4 apt. across from UCF. Free shuttle, furn. room, pool, 3 HBO's, 3 friendly female roommates. \$490/mo. incl. everything! Willing to work w/price. Call Alyssa 407-362-2596 or 561-436-9362.

May 1st through July 31st. F roommate. 4/2 House w/ pool, W/D, wireless Internet, cable tv and sec. sys. Behind Waterford Lakes. \$325/mo. util. incl. Unfurnished room. 407-340-9460.

300 FOR SALE:
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Fabric and clothing design Kristina Feick 3338 Arden Villas Blvd., #12 Orlando, FL 32817 Call 407-380-2272.

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1 Get a whiff of
6 Wearing shoes
10 Hairless
14 Actress Marisa
15 Grant or Elwes
16 Field of
experience
17 Uses a lasso
18 "Catch-22" star
20 Type of general
22 Approach
23 According to
24 Mas' men
26 Washer cycle
30 Office gambling
games
35 Demon
37 Old card game
38 Writer Hentoff
39 Converts into
machine
42 Poly follower?
45 Picnic invader
46 Agile deer
48 Bee and Em
49 Not the best
time to buy
54 Author of "The
Other



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57 Rent again
58 Wipe out
60 Cats and
cocoatoos
61 Trimming sound
63 Profess
64 Frat getup
65 Unruly group
66 Fruity beverage
67 Trail persistently
68 ___ of Galilee

Please see solutions in next issue — Thurs. 4/8

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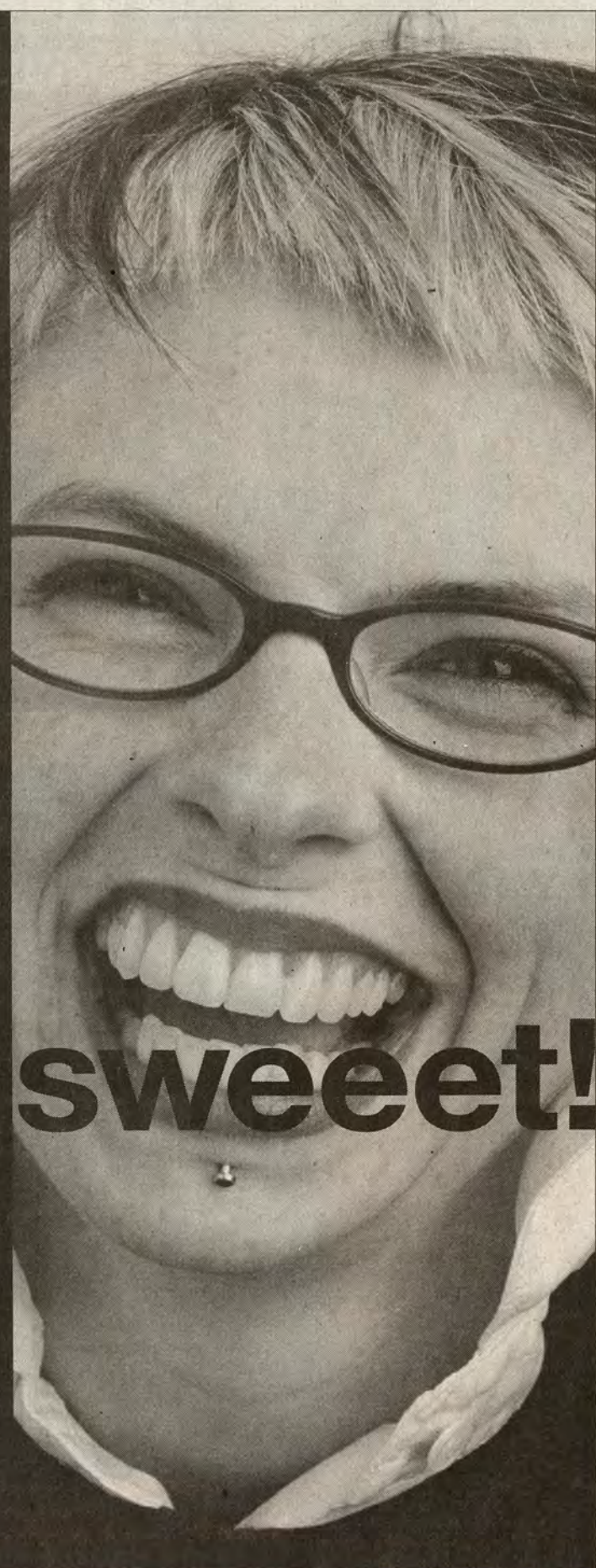
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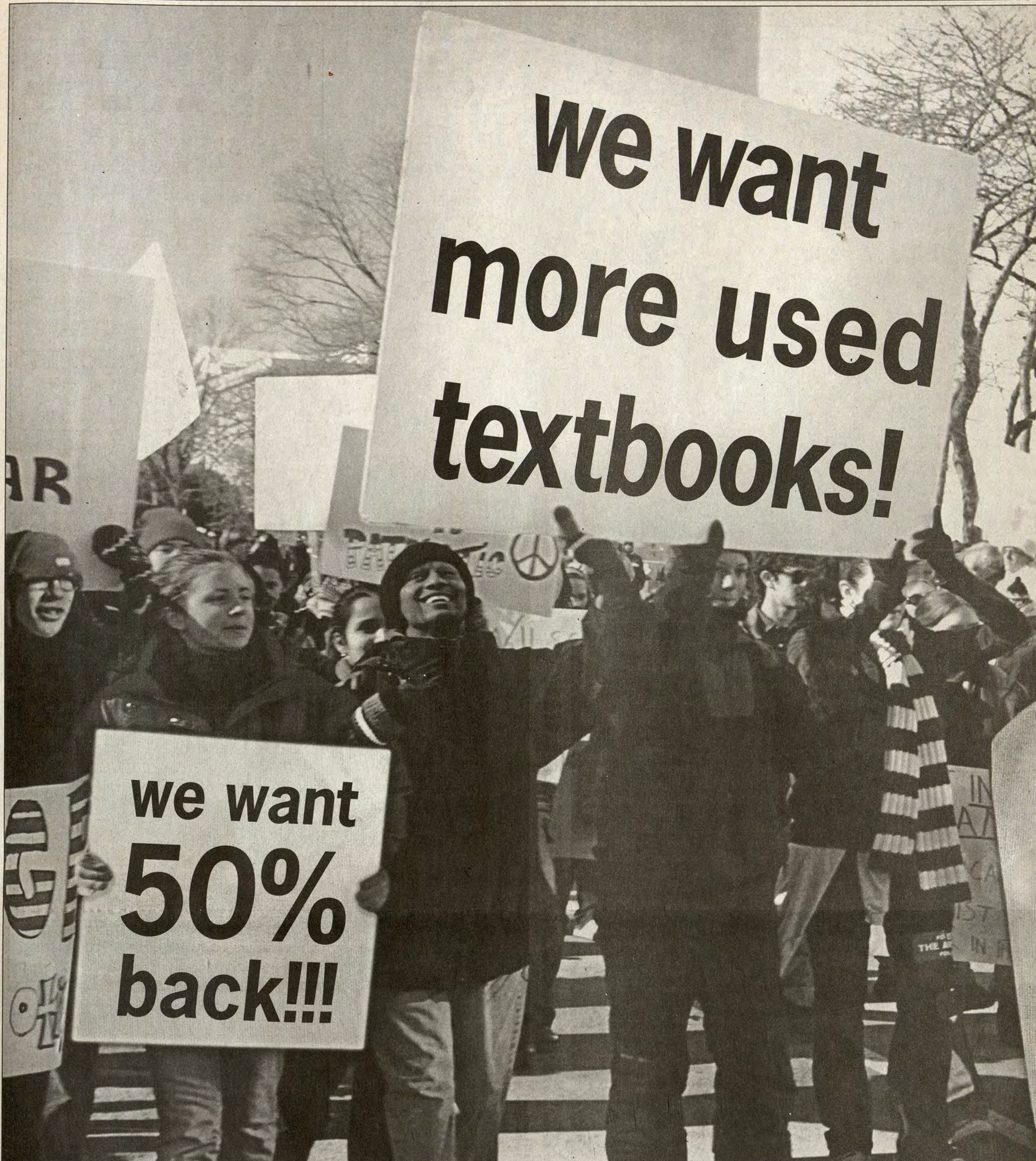
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